Growth of paper industry

*216. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether paper industry is growing at a fast pace;

(b) whether it is proposed to accord "core industry" status to paper industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The paper industry is growing at a steady pace.

(b) to (d) The paper industry has already been categorized by the Ministry of Coal as falling under the "Core Sector" for consumption and use, for supply of coal from the coal producing subsidiaries under Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

Scheme to rejuvenate tea gardens

†*217. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of Government to rejuvenate tea gardens and maintain their greenery as well;

(b) whether any fund is being created for this purpose; and

(c) if so, what snall be the outline of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Indian tea industry is seriously affected by the high cost of production and near stagnation in productivity due to old age of the tea bushes. Government is examining ways and means of introducing a programme for massive replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes. The objective of this programme is to address the issue of ageing tea plantations which has resulted in a progressive reduction in yield and help in reviving the fortunes of the Indian tea industry in terms of increase in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.